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**SEP 26 2008**

In re Application of	:
MAIDA-SMITH et al.	:
Application No. 10/804,775	: DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: 03/19/2004	: UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)
Attorney Docket No. 2416-00300	:

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), filed May 5, 2008, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed nonprovisional applications set forth in the amendment filed May 25, 2005.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The petition does not comply with items (1) and (3).

37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) requires that any nonprovisional application claiming the benefit of one or more prior-filed copending nonprovisional applications must contain or be amended to contain a reference to each such prior-filed application, identifying it by application number (consisting of the series code and serial number) and indicating the relationship of the applications. The relationship between the applications is whether the subject application is a continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part of a prior-filed nonprovisional application. An example of a proper benefit claim is: "This application is a continuation of Application No. 10/---, filed---." A benefit claim that merely states: "This application claims the benefit of Application No. 10/---, filed---," does not comply with 37 CFR 1.72(a)(2)(i) since the proper relationship, which includes the type of continuing application, is not stated. Also, the status of each nonprovisional parent application (if it is patented or abandoned) should also be indicated, following the filing date of the parent nonprovisional application. *See* MPEP Section 201.11, Reference to Prior Nonprovisional Applications. The amendment fails to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) and is therefore unacceptable.

Furthermore, 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3) requires a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. Since the statement appearing in the petition varies from the required language, the statement is being construed as the statement required by 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3). If this is not a correct reading of the statement appearing in the petition, petitioner should promptly notify the Office.

Before the petition under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3) can be granted, a renewed petition under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3), an Application Data Sheet or substitute amendment (complying with 37 CFR 1.121, 37 CFR 1.76(b)(5) and 37 CFR 1.33(b)),<sup>1</sup> which states the relationship of the prior-filed applications to this application, are required.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

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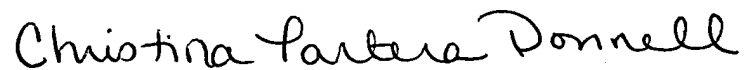
<sup>1</sup> The Office notes that 37 CFR 1.33(b) requires that amendments and other papers, except for written assertions pursuant to 37 CFR 1.27(c)(2)(ii), filed in an application must be signed by an appropriate party. Therefore, an ADS, supplemental ADS, or a substitute amendment submitted after the filing of an application must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33(b).

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Correspondence may also be submitted via the Electronic Filing System of the USPTO.

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3211.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christina Tartera Donnell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christina Tartera Donnell  
Senior Petitions Attorney  
Office of Petitions